

REMARKS

Claims 8, 19, 25, 28, 31, and 34 are pending in the present application. Claims 8, 19, 25, and 31 have been amended. Claims 8 and 19 are independent claims.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 11, 13, 16-18, 20-24, 26, 27, 29, 32, 33, and 35 have been canceled above without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicants reserve the right to file these claims, or any other previously canceled claim, in a divisional application.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has allowed claims 8, 28, and 34, and considers the subject matter of claims 5, 7, 16, and 18-22 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) for not showing features recited in claims 5-7, 16, and 17. However, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 5-7, 16, and 17. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to various claims for minor informalities. Of the claims objected to, claims 8 and 19 are still pending. Specifically, claim 8 was objected to because "shut" should be replaced with --shunt--, and claim 19 was objected to because "when said shunt coils are connected to form a multi-tier structure" is repetitive. The claims have been amended based on the Examiner's objections. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw these objections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner applied various grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in rejecting claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 11, 13, 17, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 32, 33, and 35.¹ Applicants respectfully submit that these grounds of rejection have been rendered moot by the cancellation of the aforementioned claims. Accordingly, the § 103 rejections should be withdrawn.

Amendments to Allowable Claims

According to the above claim amendments, the scope of claims 8 and 19 has been altered. It is respectfully submitted that these amended claims still incorporate the features relied upon by the Examiner as being allowable over the prior art of record. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that above amendments do not affect the status of these claims as being allowable. However, if the Examiner disagrees with Applicants and decides that the amendments would necessitate another rejection/objection, the Examiner is strongly urged to contact Applicants' representative, Jason Rhodes (47,305), at (703) 208-4011 in an effort to determine a suitable remedy (e.g., Examiner's Amendment) to avoid issuance of another Office Action.²

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

¹ Claims 25, 28, 32, 34 were also indicated in certain parts of the Office Action as being rejected. Such indications were clearly erroneous, since these claims were dependent on claims indicated by the Examiner as being allowable.

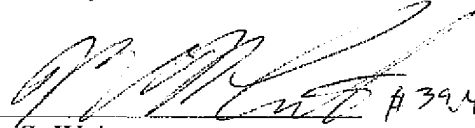
² During the telephone conversation on February 28, 2007, Examiner Ephrem Alemu agreed that he would make such a call to Applicants' representative if he determined that the claim amendments required another rejection/objection.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By  #32181
Marc S. Weiner
Registration No.: 32,181
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments